

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An evaluation apparatus comprising:

a propagation information storage unit configured to store propagation information data including information messages to be electrically propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

an evaluation unit configured to evaluate an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored in the propagation information storage unit,

wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,

wherein the propagation information storage unit stores content data representing content of the propagation information data, and

wherein the evaluation unit, based on the content data for the information that has been stored for a group to be evaluated, extracts an attribute for the group to be evaluated, extracts a concept for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, and employs the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the concept extracted for the content data to evaluate the influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

a usage analysis unit configured to analyze, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that

has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

4. (Currently Amended) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

a change analysis unit for analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

5. (Currently Amended) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data ~~include~~ includes sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the evaluation unit extracts an attribute for the group to be evaluated by analyzing content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated, extracts ~~attributes~~ concepts for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups, analyzes a relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the ~~attributes~~ concepts extracted for the content data in the emails, and employs the analysis results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails to evaluate an influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.

8. (Currently Amended) An evaluation method comprising:

storing propagation information data including information messages to be electrically propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

evaluating an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored, wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,

wherein the method further comprising:

storing content data representing the content of the propagation information data;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated based on the content data for the information that has been stored for the group to be evaluated;

extracting a concept for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups; and

evaluating the influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the concept extracted for the content data.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 98, further comprising:

analyzing, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

11. (Currently Amended) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 98, further comprising:

analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

12. (Currently Amended) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data include sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the method further comprising:

analyzing the content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated;

extracting ~~an attribute~~ a concept for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups;

analyzing a relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the ~~attributes~~ concepts extracted for the content data in the emails; and

evaluating an influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups by the analyzed results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.

15. (Currently Amended) A program for computer to evaluate activities of a plurality of groups to be evaluated, the program making the computer to perform a process comprising:

storing propagation information data including information messages to be electrically propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

evaluating an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored, wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,
wherein the program further making the computer to perform the process comprising:
storing content data representing the content of the propagation information data;
extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated based on the content data for the information that has been stored for the group to be evaluated;
extracting a concept for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups; and
evaluating the influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the concept extracted for the content data.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The program as claimed in claim 4615, further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

18. (Currently Amended) The program as claimed in claim 4615, further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

19. (Currently Amended) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data include sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the program further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing the content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated;

extracting ~~an attribute~~ a concept for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups;

analyzing a relationship between the group to be evaluated and the email, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the ~~attributes~~ concepts extracted for the content data in the emails; and

evaluating an influence of the concept that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups by the analyzed results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.

22. (New) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concept is a common word, which frequently appears in the one group.

23. (New) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the concept is a common word, which frequently appears in the one group.

24. (New) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein the concept is a common word, which frequently appears in the one group.